

Genesis 39:1-4

1 Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there. 2 The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. 3 When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did, 4 Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned.

➤ **Temptation often shows up in times of prosperity.**

Genesis 39:6-10

6 Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, 7 and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!" 8 But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. 9 No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" 10 And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.

➤ **The battles we face demand radical vigilance.**

Discipline of Watchfulness = staying spiritually awake to the reality of God, your own heart and the forces that are coming against you

Matthew 26:41

"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Hebrews 2:1

We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.

"Those with a well-kept heart are persons who are prepared for and capable of responding to the situations of life in ways that are good and right. Their will functions as it should, to choose what is good and avoid what is evil, and the other components of their nature cooperate to that end. They need not be 'perfect'; but what all people manage in at least a few times and areas of life, they manage in life as a whole." – Dallas Willard

Genesis 39:11-16

11 One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. 12 She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house. 13 When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house, 14 she called her household servants. "Look," she said to them, "this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed. 15 When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house." 16 She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home.



Genesis 39:19-20

19 When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, "This is how your slave treated me," he burned with anger. 20 Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined.

➤ **Sometimes it is *more* costly to do what is right.**

Reflection Questions:

- ☐ Where am I dropping my guard because I feel exhausted, frustrated, or spiritually worn out?
- ☐ What things am I justifying and allowing into my life that I used to strongly resist?
- ☐ Where am I ignoring clear warnings—from friends, parents, mentors, God?
- ☐ In what areas am I feeling spiritually numb or indifferent?
- ☐ Is there a lining of resentment forming around my heart that's breeding complacency?

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